FIREBRAND

THE INITIATION OF NATALI PRESANO

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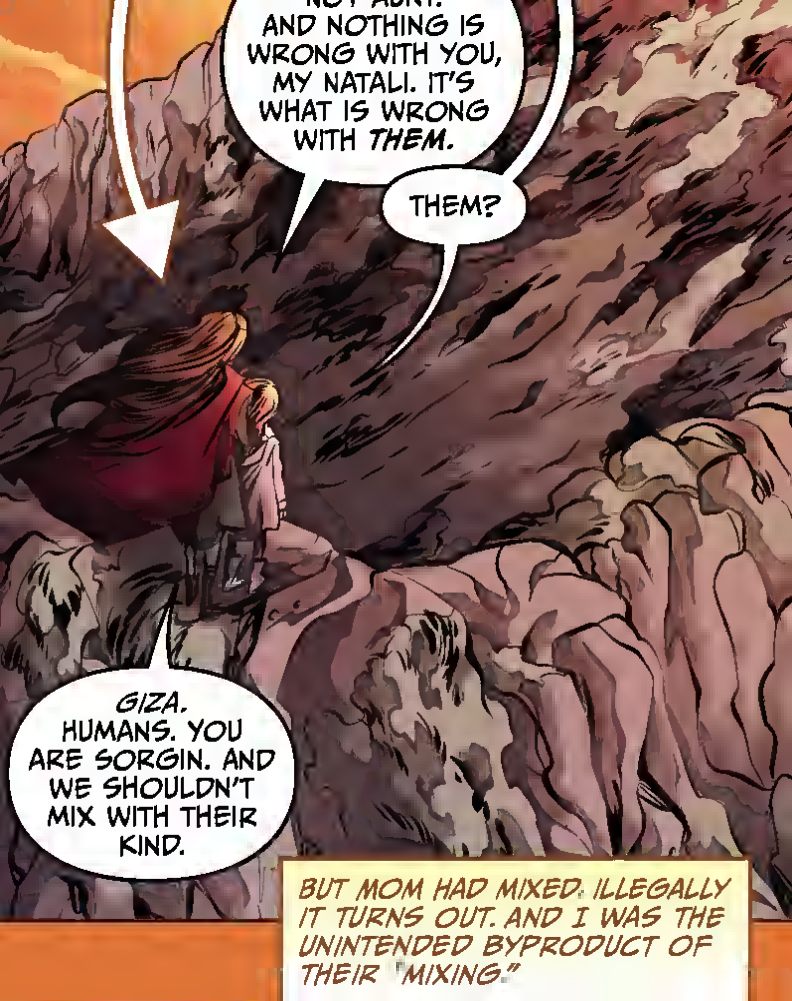
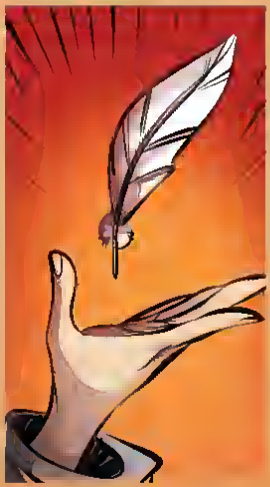

AND NOTHING IS WRONG WITH YOU, MY NATALI. IT'S WHAT IS WRONG WITH *THEM.*
THEM?
GIZA. HUMANS. YOU ARE SORGIN. AND WE SHOULDN'T MIX WITH THEIR KIND.
BUT MOM HAD MIXED. ILLEGALLY IT TURNS OUT. AND I WAS THE UNINTENDED BYPRODUCT OF THEIR "MIXING."

BUT WHAT IF DAD IS LOOKING FOR ME?
GOOD RIDDANCE. THE OUTSIDE WORLD IS NOT FOR YOU.

LET THE FEATHER GO, NATALI, AND YOU WILL UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING.

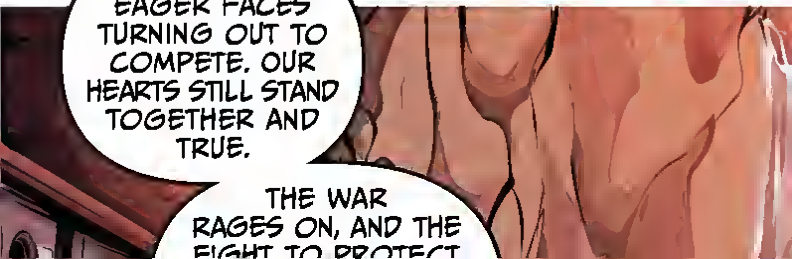


HOLD ON.

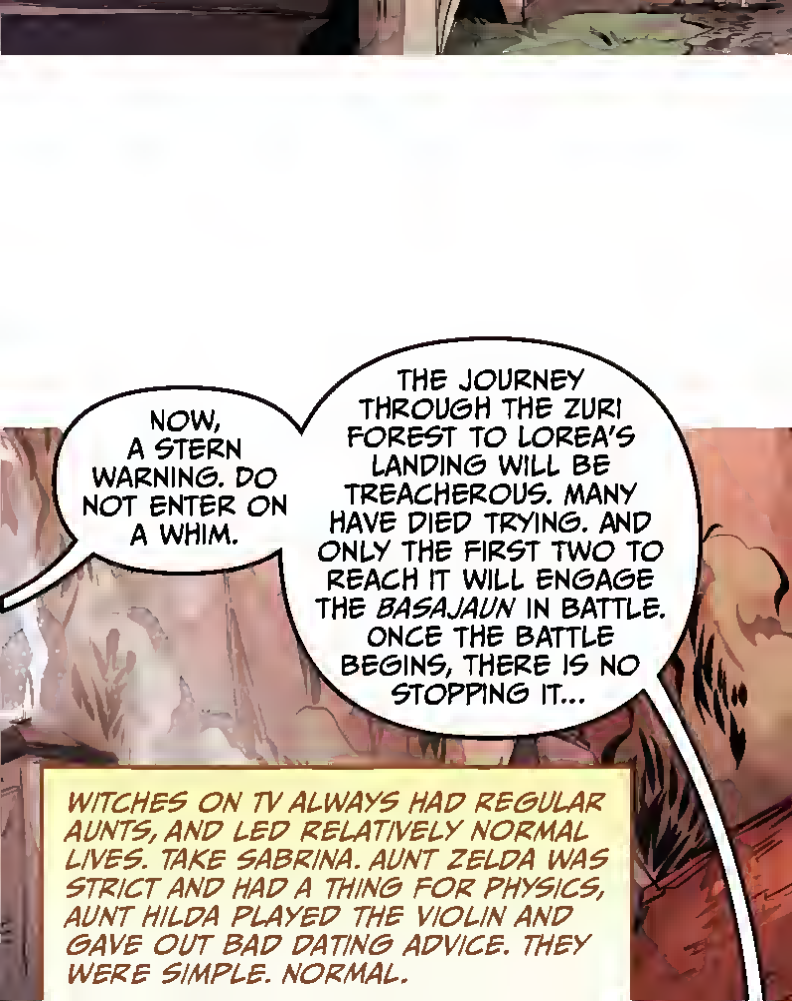
I NEVER SAW MY FATHER OR LUKEN AGAIN...NOT FOR A VERY LONG TIME...
THE DAY MY AUNT BROUGHT ME TO THE BALD MOUNTAIN WAS THE DAY I REALIZED THAT NOTHING IN OUR WORLD IS WHAT IT SEEMS...

KIND OF LIKE WHEN ALICE FELL THROUGH THE RABBIT HOLE INTO WONDERLAND, BUT INSTEAD OF TALKING RABBITS, TEA PARTIES, CROQUET AND EVIL QUEENS, THERE WAS A BEAUTIFUL ANCIENT CITY, CALLED **EDER**, AND SOME SERIOUSLY BITCHY WITCHES...

8 YEARS LATER...



OUR SOLIDARITY, AND THE HUMANS OUR ENEMY PREY ON, GROWS HARDER AND HARDER.
AS YOU ARE AWARE, I HAVE BEEN CLEARED TO TAKE ON AN APPRENTICE. TO PARTICIPATE IN THE *BASA GERRA* YOU MUST BE 16.

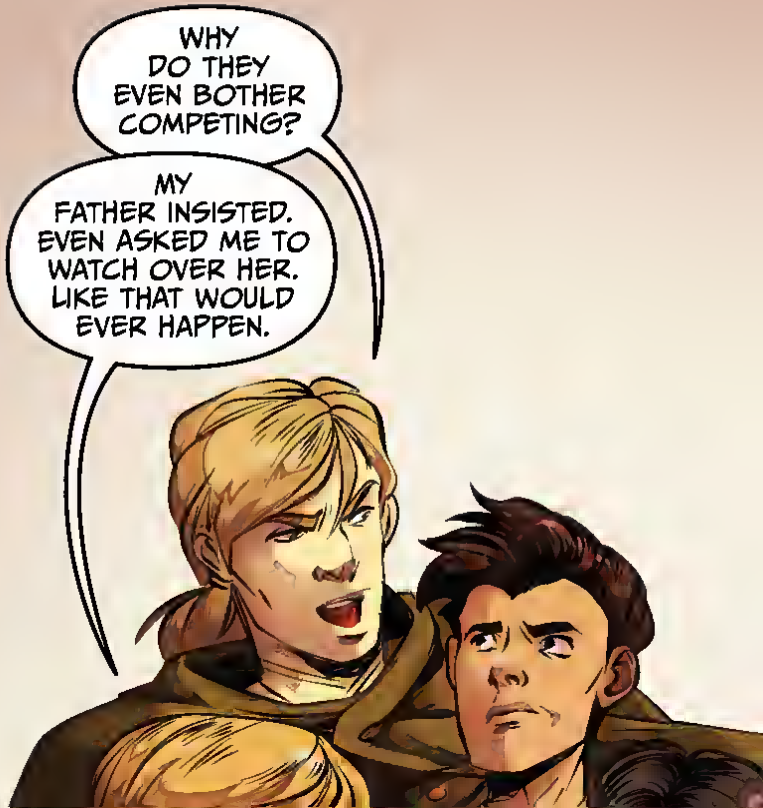

NOW, A STERN WARNING. DO NOT ENTER ON A WHIM.
THE JOURNEY THROUGH THE ZURI FOREST TO LOREA'S LANDING WILL BE TREACHEROUS. MANY HAVE DIED TRYING. AND ONLY THE FIRST TWO TO REACH IT WILL ENGAGE THE *BASAJAUN* IN BATTLE. ONCE THE BATTLE BEGINS, THERE IS NO STOPPING IT...
WITCHES ON TV ALWAYS HAD REGULAR AUNTS, AND LED RELATIVELY NORMAL LIVES. TAKE SABRINA. AUNT ZELDA WAS STRICT AND HAD A THING FOR PHYSICS, AUNT HILDA PLAYED THE VIOLIN AND GAVE OUT BAD DATING ADVICE. THEY WERE SIMPLE. NORMAL.

IZEBA SELENA WAS AN IKUZI, PART OF AN ELITE TEAM SPREAD AROUND THE WORLD, ALL OF WHO LIVED AND BREATHED MAGIC. AND SHE WAS NEVER SATISFIED. ALWAYS PUSHING ME INTO THINGS I DIDN'T WANT TO DO. INCLUDING THE BASA GERRA.
THE GATES OPEN TOMORROW MORNING, AT DAWN.

THE NEXT MORNING...
BASA GERRA.

YOU SCARED?
YOU SHOULD BE. WHY THEY EVEN LET ANY OF YOU COMPETE, I WILL NEVER KNOW.

THEIR MAGIC IS SO WEAK.
NATALI NEVER USES MAGIC.

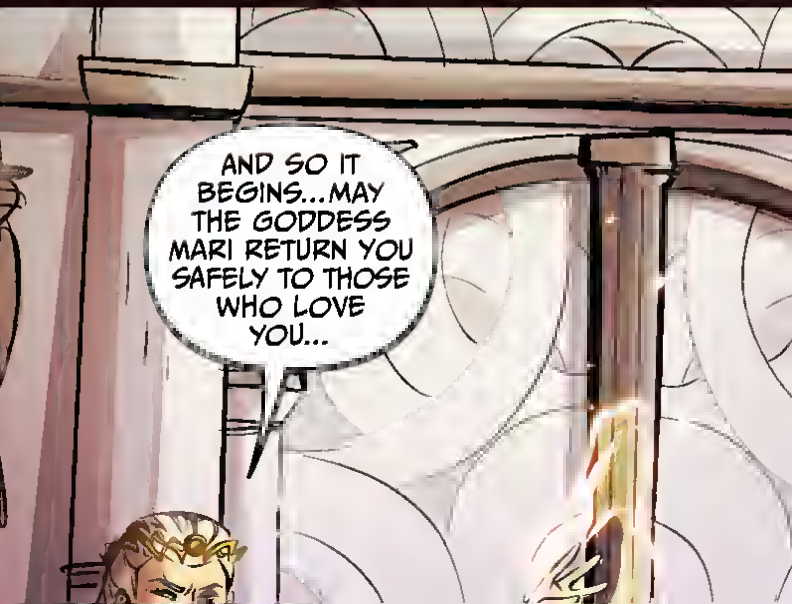

WHY DO THEY EVEN BOTHER COMPETING?
MY FATHER INSISTED. EVEN ASKED ME TO WATCH OVER HER. LIKE THAT WOULD EVER HAPPEN.

MEET JENNA. COUSIN. MEAN GIRL. SOMEONE JACKED A STICK UP HER BACKSIDE AT BIRTH.

CAREFUL

GALIDUTO.
ACCIDENTS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO HAPPEN DURING THE BASA GERRA.
YES, THEY HAVE...

GALIDUTO. LOST. THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL THOSE OF US WHO HAVE PARENTS WHO "MIXED."



YOU CAN'T HOLD BACK, NATALI. YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO LET GO OF THE PAST.
I CAN'T, JULIEN. I CAN'T RISK SOMEONE ELSE GETTING HURT. BESIDES, I WON'T NEED MY POWERS TO BEAT JENNA.

WHAT'S WRONG?
DON'T YOU SMELL THAT? LET'S GO THIS WAY...

THEY'VE GIVEN UP ALREADY.
LOOK OUT!

AHHHH!
HELP!

THIS BLADE IS USELESS.

NOTHING IS WORKING.
HOW DO WE GET IT TO LET GO?
KILL IT!

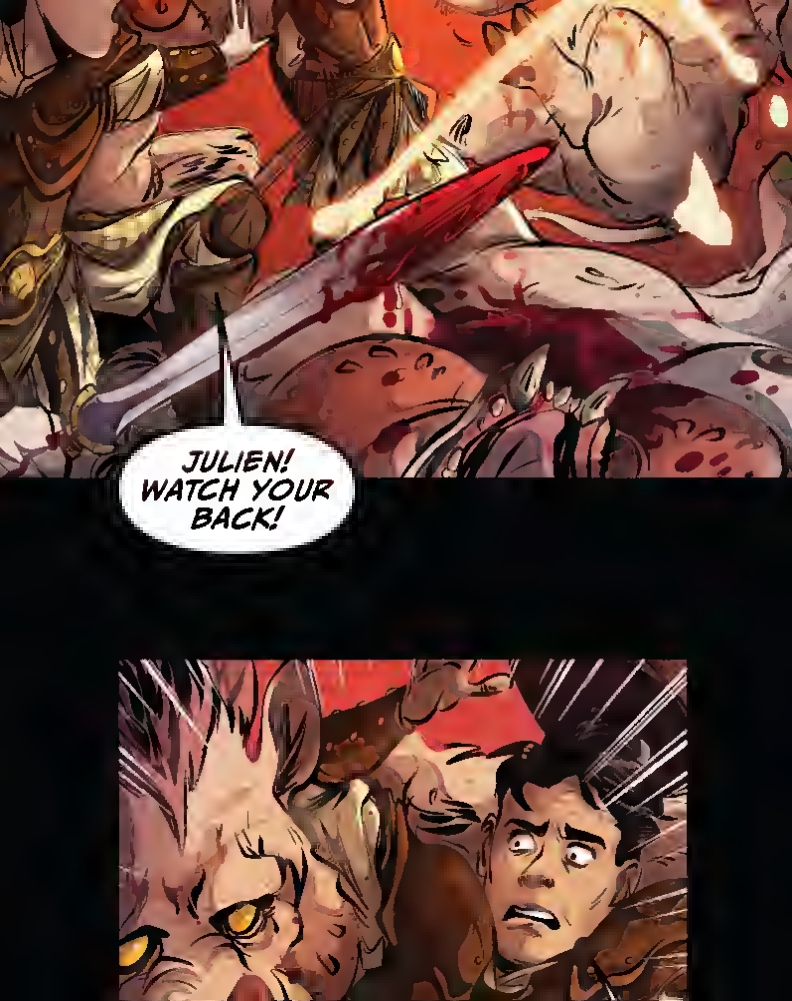
SQUEEEESH

GRRRRRR
DID YOU HEAR SOME-THING?
LIKE WHAT?

GOREPIGS! DON'T LET THEM BITE YOU! THEIR VENOM WILL KNOCK YOU OUT!
GRRCOOWL

SHING
GOOD TO KNOW!
NATALI! I'M COMING!
DO I LOOK LIKE A DAMSEL IN DISTRESS?

KRROO
SCHUK
SKREEEN


JULIEN! WATCH YOUR BACK!

CHOMP
AHHHHH!
WRRHOOO
NO!

SKRAAAK

Thank you for reading and be sure to subscribe!
We'll be back for the official launch of
FIREBRAND on Thursday, January 26th!

LEGENDARY